The late Mr. H. L. Elmes. — Another promising young architect, scarcely embarked on the sea of life, with every prospect of a voyage as full of profit to his country as to himself, has been snatched away. Mr. Harvey Lonsdale Elmes died on the 26th of November last, if we are rightly informed, in Jamaica, where he was staying with his young wife for the benefit of his health. St. George's Hall, and the Law Courts, at Liverpool, bear witness to the genius and assiduity of Mr. Elmes, and will long keep his name in remembrance. The Collegiate Institution, in the same town—a Tudor building of large extent—was also erected from Mr. Elmes's design, submitted in competition, although it was not carried out by him. Many anxious, even bitter hours, did the young architect suffer in connection with these works,—as all who would achieve great things may expect to suffer in their early struggles. A recollection of the uncertainty of this life, and the greater life to come, would lighten many disappointments, and show the futility of the load of care we build up for ourselves.

Competition.—Plans are wanted for the erection of a building at Cheltenham for the Committee managing the Church of England Training-schools there, for the accommodation of sixty pupils, the principal, vice-principal, and training-master, as required by the Committee of Council on Education. Premium or other payment not specified.

Conspiracy to Molest Workmen.—Two working carpenters were lately brought before the Lord Mayor upon a warrant under 6 Geo. 4, c. 129, s. 3, for the prevention of intimidation to workmen in the lawful exercise of their calling. They had been employed by a 'committee of workmen' to prevent any one from replacing men who had struck work at Mr. Trego's, of Coleman-street, rather than work till five o'clock P.M. during the short days! The Lord Mayor, on hearing the evidence against one of the prisoners, said, the case was one of so injurious a nature to the operations of trade, that they were determined to mark their sense of its importance by sentencing the prisoner to the full penalty of imprisonment, with hard labour, for three calendar months. The other prisoner seems to have laboured under the delusion that he was acting according to law and justified in what he had done; but his counsel promised, that not only he, but the 'committee,' also, would desist from further offence of the same sort: and, ultimately, the case was postponed, in order that the prosecutor might obtain further assurance of this.

The New Record-office.—A correspondent urges that a public competition should be invited for the design and arrangement of the intended Record-office, saying that as it is to be paid for by the public, it should be made to afford the talent of the country an opportunity of exhibiting itself.

Intended Prison on Wandsworth Common.—The new prison to be erected on Wandsworth-common is to be built from the designs of Mr. D. R. Hill, of Birmingham, who has been appointed to act as architect in the erection. The building will have accommodations for 340 males and 155 females. The plans are to be submitted to the Secretary of State, for his approval.

Architectural Rebuses. — The abbey church of Bath contains many instances of the use of the rebus in architectural embellishment. Prior William Birde, who built the splendid Gothic oratory which bears his name, and in great part restored the Abbey itself, is commemorated by a bird in the letter "W," sculptured in various parts of the edifice. The glazing of the great eastern window in the manner called 'Bellot-wise,' records the munificence of one Bellot, who gave the coloured glass for the purpose: another, presented by one Mallet of Enmore, is ornamented with his coat of arms, and the motto, 'Malet meliora;' and a third was ornamented by one Biss, of Spargrove, with his arms and the motto, 'Biss fecit: sis felix bis.' The memory of Bishop Oliver King, whose dream of heavenly commission to rebuild the church is sculptured on the western front, is preserved by the device of an *olive* tree *crowned*. King Edgar, having been crowned here in 973, and having granted great privileges to the city, is represented with a roll representing the charter; and Osric, who endowed the foundation, is sculptured bearing a purse of money.—*Bedford Times.*

Foul Air in Wells.—Last week a well being opened on the premises of a surgeon, of Sudbury, it was found to be so full of foul air that the workman could not go down, a lighted candle being immediately extinguished when lowered. According to the *Gloucester Chronicle*, Mr. A. J. Green having slaked about half a peck of lime in a pail, and let it down while steaming, in less than ten minutes a candle burnt brightly, and the workman was able to descend and commence his work, in less than a quarter of an hour from the time of lowering the lime.

Cologne Cathedral.—A letter from Cologne says—"The Central Committee for finishing the cathedral of this city, has requested the Pope to attend the six hundredth anniversary of its foundation, which will take place in August next. The King of Prussia has also been invited. On this occasion will be uncovered the fine painted windows of the south aisle, which were presented to the cathedral by the King of Bavaria."

Wages and Work in Australia.—Carpenters' daily wages throughout the colony are quoted at 6s., blacksmiths at 6s. 6d., and day-labourers at 4s. to 5s., with an increasing demand. It is said that an addition of 8,000 to 10,000 labourers would not diminish the rate of their wages. Provisions, on the other hand, are plentiful and cheap, fresh meat rarely exceeding 2d. per lb., wholesale, 1d. to 1½d. per lb.

Death of Mr. Nelson, the Sculptor. —The Manchester papers announce the death in that town of Mr. Nelson, the sculptor of a fine statue, called "Venus adorning," which was exhibited some time ago at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly. He was 47 only.

How to become a Judge of Pictures. —"Sposin' its pictures that's on the carpet, wait till you hear the name of the painter. If its Rubens, or any o' them old boys, praise, for its agin the law to doubt them; but if its a new man, and the company ain't most especial judges, criticise. A leetle out o' keeping, says you, he don't use his grays enough nor glaze down well; that shadder wants depth; general effect is good thnugh parts ain't: those eyebrows are heavy enough for stucco, says you, and other unmeaning terms like those. It will pass, I tell you; your opinion will be thought great. Them that judged the cartoons at Westminster Hall knew plaguy little more nor that. But if there is a portrait of the lady of the house hangin' up, or its at all like enough to make it out, stop—gaze on it—walk back—close your fingers like a spy-glass, and look through 'em amazed like—enchanted—chained to the spot. Then utter, unconscious like, 'That's a most beautiful pictur, by heavens! that's a speakin' portrait. Its well painted, too; but whoever the artist is, he is an unprincipled man.' 'Good gracious!' she'll say, 'how so?' 'Cause, madam, he has not done you justice.'"—*Sam Slick.*

Noting Requirements.—Sir: When the late Sir Samuel Bentham had any object of improvement in view, he was in the habit of noting the *desiderata*. He remarked that, "in a general point of view, the bringing together and arranging indications of the nature of those in question, imperfect though the first attempt should be, seem the means best calculated not only to assist the production of well-arranged designs, but to enable those on whom the decision may depend to bring each particular to a test, and to form a correct view and estimation of any design, general or partial, that may be offered." Would it not be doing a general service, were you, Sir, in The Builder, from time to time to, present your readers with indications of the *desiderata* for different classes of buildings; and to solicit from your readers notes and observations on these indications, and to publish such of them as you might consider well founded. It would seem that, whether it were a question of a cottage for the labourer, or a costly pile for the safe keeping of our public records, such publicity of the requirements "could not but tend to the perfection of the design."—B.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*T. C.*"—Anonymous opinions are of course worth nothing.

"*Pitlord.*"—We cannot "recommend a builder who will undertake to erect a studio, or form one in an already built house for a permanent tenant." Inquire of a builder in some of the new quarters where houses are going up.

"*Shape of Sewers.*"—T. H. suggests that sewers and drains should have V shaped bottoms.

Postponed Unavoidably." — "Chronos;" "Cab-Stand Nuisance;" "Londoner's" (third letter); "Metropolitan Improvements," &c.

Received.—"J. A." (Ashton-under-Lyne), "J. B." (Burnley) many thanks, "Philo-Agonos" (next week), "J. A. P." (next week), "J. R.," "J. J. C.," "J. R." (shall appear), "T. G." (next week), "R. K.," "J. A." (has been overlooked—shall appear), "R. P. C.," "F. M.," "C. J.," "T.," "An Architect," "W. A. N.," "A Friend."

Books Received.—"Dolman's Magazine" for January, "Railway Engineering, or Field-work preparatory to the Construction of Railways, by J. Baker, C.E." Longman and Co., 1848).

To Provincial Readers.—In reply to complaints of the irregular delivery of The Builder in provincial towns, we beg leave to state that it is invariably published by seven o'clock on Friday morning; and that the irregularity complained of rests entirely with the parties through whom it is obtained.

NOTICE.

A few copies of the Volume for 1847 are in the hands of the publisher, and may be had on application, price 17s. 6d. each. Covers for The Builder *may be obtained at the Office, price 2s.; or the publisher will undertake to bind the numbers at 3s. per volume.*

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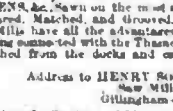

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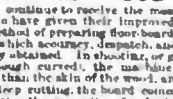

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